

STATE OF GEORGIA SPECIFICATION COMPOST

335-6000

335-7200

Revised December 9, 1997

SCOPE. This specification covers compost containing organic materials recovered from Georgia's non-hazardous waste stream for use in horticultural applications.

DEFINITIONS.

As defined by the Georgia Department of Agriculture Compost Standards dated December 29, 1993:

Compost: Organic materials which have been biologically decomposed by mixing and piling in such a way as to promote decay, and to minimize pathogens, viable weed seeds and odors. Such materials must have passed beyond a thermophilic (heat generating) stage, and must be in a stage of decomposition (aerobic) of a sufficient degree to be not harmful to plant growth.

COMPOST GRADES-

Nutrient Grade Compost: Compost that is added to soil as a fertilizer. Only compost that is registered with the Georgia Department of Agriculture Plant Food, Feed and Grain Division as a "commercial fertilizer" or "specialty fertilizer" will qualify as nutrient grade compost.

Soil Amendment/ Horticultural Media Grade Compost: Compost that is added to soils to enhance its properties as a growing media. Only compost that is registered with the Georgia Department of Agriculture as a "soil amendment" or "horticultural media" will qualify.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND PUBLICATIONS. Applicable portions of the following publications shall be part of this specification:

Department of Agriculture
Compost and Standards
December 29, 1993

(Copy included in this contract)

Department of Transportation
Compost Specifications

(Copies may be obtained from:

GDOT or
Office of Materials Research
15 Kennedy Drive
Forest Park, GA 30050

GDOT
Contracts Admin.
#2 Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA 30334)

The Composting Council
Suggested Compost Parameters
and Compost Use Guidelines

(Copies may be obtained from:

The Composting Council
114 South Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314)

Environmental Protection Agency
40CFR Part 503
Standards for the Use or Disposal of
Sewage Sludge

(Copies may be obtained from:

EPA- Order Management Division
345 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30365)

Environmental Protection Division

(Copies may be obtained from:

REQUIREMENTS.

1. Compost products shall conform to the Department of Agriculture Compost Standards dated December 29, 1993. The specification for soluble salt content shall fall within the range of 0.5 to 4.5 mmhos/cm as stated on page 3 of the Department of Agriculture for compost used as a soil amendment.
2. a) Vendors of compost categorized as a soil amendment or horticultural media shall have their products registered through the Department of Agriculture Plant Food, Feed and Grain Division.

b) Vendors of compost categorized as a fertilizer shall have a company license and register their product with the Department of Agriculture Plant Food, Feed and Grain Division.
3. Facilities at which compost is produced shall comply with the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Solid Waste Branch's "Rules for Solid Waste, Chapter 391-3-4.16."
4. Facilities at which the compost is produced with any sewage sludge shall hold permits with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division for operation. Permits may be held with either the Solid Waste Branch or Water Protection Branch. These vendors shall provide a copy of DNR permits with bid documentation.
5. When sewage sludge is used in the production of compost, composting operations shall comply with EPA 40CFR Part 503, "Standards for Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge."
6. Compost facilities shall be located within the State of Georgia using organic, raw materials diverted from the Georgia's nonhazardous waste stream so that agencies comply with Official Code of Georgia Annotated 50-5-60.4 (a) which states:

"All state agencies, departments, and authorities responsible for the maintenance of public lands shall give preference to the use of compost and mulch in all road building, land maintenance, and land development activities. Preference shall be given to compost and mulch made in the state of Georgia from organics which are source separated from the state's nonhazardous solid waste stream."

In order to comply with this requirement, vendor address on Environmental Protection Division permits or Department of Agriculture licenses shall show an address within the State of Georgia.

PACKAGING.

1. The bag weight for bagged compost shall not be greater than 50 pounds.
2. Nutrient grade compost shall show a NPK value written on the bags, qualifying the product as a fertilizer. Bulk nutrient grade compost shall be delivered with a ticket which states NPK value.

QUALITY ASSURANCE. The supplier shall be responsible for the performance of all testing and inspection prior to shipment to ensure compliance with the requirements listed above. Test results shall

be available for inspection by a State of Georgia Representative during the life of this contract. This does not preclude subsequent inspection or testing and evaluation by the State of Georgia or independent test laboratory to further determine conformance with specifications and quality standards of the product. If State of Georgia or independent test laboratory results indicate that the product does not meet specifications, the supplier shall be responsible for the cost of such tests. Unsatisfactory test results will be basis for contract cancellation if it is deemed in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
STATEWIDE BUSINESS SERVICES
Office of State Purchasing

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